

### Claims – Clean Version

Please replace claims 1, 11, 22 and 29 with the following:

1. [Twice Amended] A system for transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring on a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring which has a primary communication signal, wherein the secondary communication signal has secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and the primary communication signal has primary overhead including secondary section overhead, the system comprising:

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a first adapter assembly adapted to receive first control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring, to receive the secondary communication signal from the secondary SONET ring and the primary communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to combine the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead based on the first control information, to form a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the first control information, to combine the secondary payload with the primary payload to form a transport payload based on the first control information, and to combine the transport overhead with the transport payload to form a transport communication signal for transport across a communications path of the primary SONET ring based on the first control information; and

a second adapter assembly adapted to receive second control information indicating the error in the secondary SONET ring, to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead based on the second control information, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, and to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create the second secondary communication signal for transport to the secondary SONET ring based on the second control information.

B3 11. [Twice Amended] An apparatus for transporting a transport communication signal from a synchronous primary SONET ring to a secondary primary SONET ring, the transport communication signal having a transport overhead containing a secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and a transport payload containing a secondary payload wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with of a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the apparatus comprising:

an adapter assembly adapted to receive control information indicating an error in the secondary primary SONET ring, to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the control information, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal based on the control information and to transmit secondary communication signal to the secondary primary SONET ring based on the control information.

B3 22. [Twice Amended] A method of preparing a communication signal in a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring for transport to a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the communication signal having a transport overhead including a secondary overhead and a transport payload including a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead and wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the method comprising:

receiving control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring;  
removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the control information;

removing the secondary payload from the transport payload; and

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combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a  
secondary communication signal based on the control information.

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29. [Twice Amended] A method of transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring across a communications path of a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the secondary communication signal including a secondary overhead and a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead, comprising the steps of:

34 receiving first control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring into a first adapter assembly, receiving a secondary communications signal into the first adapter assembly communicably connected to the primary SONET ring and the secondary SONET ring, and, in the first adapter assembly, combining the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead based on the first control information, forming a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, and combining the secondary payload with a primary communications signal payload to form a transport payload based on the first control information, and combining the transport payload and the transport overhead to form a transport communication signal based on the first control information;

transporting the transport communication signal across a communications path through the primary SONET ring to a second adapter assembly communicably connected with the secondary SONET ring and the primary SONET ring; and

in the second adapter assembly, receiving second control information indicating the error in the secondary SONET ring, removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead based on the second control information, removing the secondary payload from the transport payload and combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to recreate the secondary communication signal based on the second control information.

### **Claims – Marked Up Version**

Please amend claims 1, 11, 22 and 29 with the following:

1. [Twice Amended] A system for transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring on a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring which has a primary communication signal, wherein the secondary communication signal has secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and the primary communication signal has primary overhead including secondary section overhead, the system comprising:

a first adapter assembly adapted to receive first control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring, to receive the secondary communication signal from the secondary SONET ring and the primary communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to combine the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead based on the first control information, to form a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the first control information, to combine the secondary payload with the primary payload to form a transport payload based on the first control information, and to combine the transport overhead with the transport payload to form a transport communication signal for transport across a communications path of the primary SONET ring based on the first control information; and

a second adapter assembly adapted to receive second control information indicating the error in the secondary SONET ring, to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead based on the second control information, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, and to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create the second secondary communication signal for transport to the secondary SONET ring based on the second control information.

11. [Twice Amended] An apparatus for transporting a transport communication signal from a synchronous primary SONET ring to a secondary primary SONET ring, the transport communication signal having a transport overhead containing a secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and a transport payload containing a secondary payload wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with of a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the apparatus comprising:

an adapter assembly adapted to receive control information indicating an error in the secondary primary SONET ring, to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the control information, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal based on the control information and to transmit secondary communication signal to the secondary primary SONET ring based on the control information.

22. [Twice Amended] A method of preparing a communication signal in a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring for transport to a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the communication signal having a transport overhead including a secondary overhead and a transport payload including a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead and wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the method comprising:

receiving control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring;  
removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead based on the control information;

removing the secondary payload from the transport payload; and

combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal based on the control information.

29. [Twice Amended] A method of transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring across a communications path of a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the secondary communication signal including a secondary overhead and a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead, comprising the steps of:

receiving first control information indicating an error in the secondary SONET ring into a first adapter assembly, receiving a secondary communications signal into the [an] first adapter assembly communicably connected to the primary SONET ring and the secondary SONET ring, and, in the first adapter assembly, combining the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead based on the first control information, forming a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, and combining the secondary payload with a primary communications signal payload to form a transport payload based on the first control information, and combining the transport payload and the transport overhead to form a transport communication signal based on the first control information;

transporting the transport communication signal across a communications path through the primary SONET ring to a second adapter assembly communicably connected with the secondary SONET ring and the primary SONET ring; and

in the second adapter assembly, receiving second control information indicating the error in the secondary SONET ring, removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead based on the second control information, removing the secondary payload from the transport payload and combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to recreate the secondary communication signal based on the second control information.